

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 were initially submitted, of which Claims 7-12 and 14 were withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-6 and 10-13 are pending, all of which stand rejected. Claims 2, 7-9, and 14 have been canceled.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

Claims 1-3, 6, 10, and 13 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2001/0026125 to Yamazaki et al. (“Yamazaki”) in view of U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2002/0158995 to Hwang et al. (“Hwang”).

Claim 1 is patentable over Yamazaki and Hwang at least because it recites “a partition formed on the data wire....” As shown in FIG. 3 and described in page 6, lines 13-14 of the Application, the partition 802 is formed on the pixel electrode 190 and the data wires 171, 171b, 173b in the invention. This limitation is not taught in Yamazaki or Hwang. Yamazaki discloses source wiring 1307 (which would correspond to data wires) in its paragraph 161, but fails to teach the relative positions of the partition and the source wiring 1307 in its device. Yamazaki’s FIG. 6 shows that the partition 41a is on the pixel electrode 40, but does not show the position of the data wires. As for Hwang, it fails to disclose a partition because the partition defines the area on which the EL layer is formed there is no EL layer in Hwang’s device. Hence, Claim 1 is patentable over Yamazaki and Hwang.

Claims 2, 3, 6, 10, and 13 depend from Claim 1 and are patentable over Yamazaki and Hwang for the same reason as Claim 1.

Claims 4 and 11 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki in view of Hwang, and further in view of U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2001/0022497 to Aoki et al. (“Aoki”). These rejections are based on the assumption that Yamazaki and Hwang disclose or suggest all the elements of Claim 1. However, for the reasons explained above, this assumption is incorrect and Claims 4 and 11 are patentable over Yamazaki, Hwang, and Aoki.

Claims 5 and 12 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki in view of Hwang and U.S. Patent No. 6,013,930 (“the ‘930 Patent”). These rejections are based on the assumption that Yamazaki and Hwang disclose or suggest all the

elements of Claim 1. However, for the reasons explained above, this assumption is incorrect. Hence, Claims 5 and 12 are patentable over Yamazaki, Hwang, and the '930 Patent.

Furthermore, Claims 5 and 12 are patentable for the additional reason that they recite that "the *partition* comprises black photoresist" (emphasis added). The Office Action points to col. 5, lines 30-67 of the '930 Patent as teaching "a black photosensitive acrylic resin between pixel electrodes." While this cited section discloses forming black matrices 67, 68, these black matrices do not correspond to "partitions" of Claim 1 because 1) they do not define an area on which an EL layer is to be formed, and 2) they are not formed on the data wire and the pixel electrode. In fact, FIG. 19A of the '930 Patent shows that the pixel electrode 69 is formed on the black matrix 68, which is distinguishable from the partition being formed on the pixel matrix as in Claim 1. Thus, Yamazaki, Hwang, and the '930 Patent, even in combination, fail to teach a "partition [that] comprises black photoresist."

Applicants also submit that the rejections fail to establish a prima facie case of obviousness because there is no motivation to combine Yamazaki and Hwang. Yamazaki discloses a display device that uses an electroluminescent (EL) material, while Hwang discloses a polycrystalline TFT liquid crystal display (LCD) device, which uses a liquid crystal panel. An EL material luminesce by way of a singlet or triplet excitation (see Yamazaki, paragraph 3). Unlike the EL material, which emits light upon excitation, a liquid crystal panel does not emit light and often incorporate a backlight unit to provide the light for operation. Hence, the two technologies are different and a person of ordinary skill in the art working to solve a problem with an EL device is not likely to be motivated to look at an LC device for solution.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, Claims 1-6 and 10-13 are now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (408) 392-9250 with any questions regarding the above-identified application.

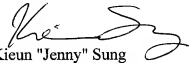
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